

March 22, 2023

The Honorable Sean Casten  
2440 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Susie Lee  
365 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Casten and Lee:

The undersigned organizations write to express our strong support for the *Pell Grant Sustainability Act*.

The federal Pell Grant program, which provides need-based grant aid to low- and moderate-income students to help cover college costs, is the [federal government's most effective investment in college affordability](#). Pell Grants boost college enrollment, help accelerate graduation, improve student outcomes, and improve college graduation rates.

However, the share of college costs covered by the grant is at an all-time low. At its peak in 1975-76, the maximum Pell Grant covered more than three-quarters of the cost of attending a four-year public college. The 2023-24 maximum award amount covers just 26% of that cost. Unsurprisingly, Pell Grant recipients continue to bear disproportionate student debt burdens.

The grant is also at annual risk of losing value year-over-year, as it is not automatically adjusted for inflation. The *Pell Grant Sustainability Act* would fix this by permanently restoring the grant's automatic annual inflation adjustment to ensure the grant retains its value over time.

Thank you for your leadership on this important matter.

Sincerely,

10,000 Degrees  
Alabama Possible  
American Association of State Colleges and Universities  
American Council on Education  
Americans for Financial Reform  
Arizona Students' Association  
Associate Students of the University of California, Berkeley  
Associated Students of UC Irvine's Office of the External Vice President  
Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities  
Bottom Line  
Breakthrough Central Texas  
California Student Aid Commission  
Campaign for College Opportunity  
Capital Area College Access Network, Lansing, MI  
CCCU – Council for Christian Colleges & Universities  
Center for First-generation Student Success  
Coalition of State University Aid Administrators  
College Beyond  
Complete College America  
Consumer Action

Council on Social Work Education  
Degrees of Change  
Denver Scholarship Foundation  
Indigenous Education, Inc.  
Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP)  
John Burton Advocates for Youth  
KIPP Public Schools  
Latino U College Access (LUCA)  
LeadMN – College Students Connecting for Change  
Middle States Commission on Higher Education  
More Than Bootstraps  
Muskegon Opportunity LCAN & Muskegon Area Promise  
National Association of State Student Grant & Aid Programs  
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators  
National College Attainment Network  
National Scholarship Providers Association  
New America, Higher Education Program  
NextGen California  
Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities  
OneGoal  
Partnership for Los Angeles Schools  
Partnership for the Future  
Pennsylvania Association for College Admission Counseling  
Phi Beta Kappa Society  
Reach Higher  
Rutgers University Student Assembly  
State Higher Education Executive Officers Association  
Student Public Interest Research Groups (PIRGs)  
Students Rising Above  
Students United  
The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS)  
The Opportunity Network  
The Pittsburgh Promise  
Third Way  
uAspire  
Worthington Scholarship Foundation  
Yes We Must Coalition